

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 693

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

SEAFOOD: Establishes a seafood import license for seafood dealers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading) and to  
3 enact R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8), relative to seafood importer licenses and  
4 fees; to require licensed wholesale/retail and licensed retail dealers who import  
5 seafood to obtain an additional seafood importer license; to establish license fees; to  
6 establish license duration and purchasing; to allocate license revenue; and to provide  
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading) are hereby  
10 amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8) are hereby enacted to read  
11 as follows:

12 §306. Wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license; place of business; employees;  
13 exemptions; wholesale out-of-state crab shipping license; seafood importer  
14 license

15 \* \* \*

16 B.

17 \* \* \*

18 (8)(a) In addition to the license requirements contained in this Section, any  
19 wholesale/retail seafood dealer who imports any seafood sourced from outside of the  
20 federal exclusive economic zone (EEZ) shall be required to purchase a seafood

1 importer license in addition to his wholesale/retail dealer's license. The seafood  
2 importer license shall be issued in the same manner as a wholesale/retail seafood  
3 dealer's license and shall be issued only to a person who is a licensed wholesale/retail  
4 seafood dealer.

5 (b) The license fee shall be based on the amount of seafood imported as  
6 follows:

<u>Pounds of Seafood Imported</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>0 to 5,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>
<u>5,001 to 20,000</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>
<u>20,001 to 40,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>40,001 to 60,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>60,001 to 80,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
<u>80,001 to 100,000</u>	<u>\$30,000</u>
<u>100,001 or more</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>

15 (c) The license shall be valid for one year, beginning on January first of each  
16 calendar year and expiring on December thirty-first of the same calendar year. The  
17 license may be purchased at any time of the year for the current license year and  
18 from November fifteenth for the immediately following license year.

19 (d) All revenues collected from the issuance of seafood importer licenses  
20 shall be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund as provided in R.S.  
21 40:5.10.1.

22 §306.1. Retail seafood dealer's license; place of business; employees; retail  
23 out-of-state crab shipping license; seafood importer license

24 \* \* \*

25 B.

26 \* \* \*

27 (8)(a) In addition to the license requirements contained in this Section, any  
28 retail seafood dealer who imports seafood sourced from outside of the federal  
29 exclusive economic zone (EEZ) shall be required to purchase a seafood importer

1 license in addition to his retail dealer's license. The seafood importer license shall  
2 be issued in the same manner as a retail seafood dealer's license and shall be issued  
3 only to a person who is a licensed retail seafood dealer.

4 (b) The license fee shall be based on the amount of seafood imported as  
5 follows:

<u>Pounds of Seafood Imported</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>0 to 5,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>
<u>5,001 to 20,000</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>
<u>20,001 to 40,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>40,001 to 60,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
<u>60,001 to 80,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
<u>80,001 to 100,000</u>	<u>\$30,000</u>
<u>100,001 or more</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>

14 (c) The license shall be valid for one year, beginning on January first of each  
15 calendar year and expiring on December thirty-first of the same calendar year. The  
16 license may be purchased at any time of the year for the current license year and  
17 from November fifteenth for the immediately following license year.

18 (d) All revenues collected from the issuance of seafood importer licenses  
19 shall be deposited into the Imported Seafood Safety Fund as provided in R.S.  
20 40:5.10.1.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 693 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bayham

**Abstract:** Requires any wholesale/retail dealer or retail dealer that imports seafood to obtain an additional a seafood importer license, establishes fees for the license, and allocates license fees to the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

Present law requires that any person buying, acquiring, or handling from any person any species of fish for sale or resale purchase a wholesale/retail seafood dealer's license. Present law requires that any person buying, acquiring, or handling from a wholesale/retail seafood

dealer any species of fish for sale to consumers for personal or household use shall purchase a retail seafood dealer's license.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires that any wholesale/retail dealer and any retail dealer who imports seafood from outside the gulf of Mexico purchase a seafood importer license in addition to the dealer license.

Proposed law provides that the fee for the seafood importer license is based on the volume of seafood imported as follows:

<u>Pounds of Seafood Imported</u>	<u>Fee</u>
0 to 5,000	\$500
5,001 to 20,000	\$1,500
20,001 to 40,000	\$5,000
40,001 to 60,000	\$10,000
60,001 to 80,000	\$20,000
80,001 to 100,000	\$30,000
100,001 or more	\$40,000

Proposed law provides that the seafood importer license shall be valid for one calendar year from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st and may be purchased at any time throughout the year and licenses for the following year may be purchased beginning Nov. 15th of the preceding year.

Proposed law requires that 20% of the revenue collected from the licenses be deposited in the Conservation Fund and that the remainder be deposited in the Imported Seafood Safety Fund.

(Amends R.S. 56:306(Section heading) and 306.1(Section heading); Adds R.S. 56:306(B)(8) and 306.1(B)(8))